3.   Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 41-74 are patentable over Bacon.

In the present invention as claimed, a resource lock is maintained for each process requiring access to a resource. Thus, there can be multiple resource locks associated with a single resource, with each resource lock maintained for a different process. When a first process receives an inquiry from a second process inquiring whether the first process owns the resource, a ghost lock is created for the first process if the first process does not own the resource. This ghost lock is not actually used to control access to the resource. Rather, the ghost lock identifies the owner of the resource, and is used by the first process to facilitate future access by the first process to the resource by allowing the first process to contact the resource owner without first having to send out an inquiry to determine the resource owner.

On the other hand, Bacon uses a single lock structure to coordinate access to a resource by multiple threads (processes). The lock structure includes a thread identifier to identify the thread that has been granted access to the resource. The "bacon" bit is typically used to signal whether or not there are any other threads waiting to lock the resource, although, as pointed out by the Examiner, the "bacon" bit can also be used to indicate whether or not the resource is locked, with the thread identifier stored elsewhere. In any case, Bacon does not maintain a resource lock for each process requiring access to the resource, but instead uses a single lock for all processes. Because Bacon uses a single lock for a resource, Bacon has no use for anything resembling Applicants' ghost locks (which are used in a distributed lock environment in which a lock is maintained for each process requiring access to the resource), and Bacon certainly does not describe or otherwise suggest anything resembling Applicant's ghost locks as claimed. In Bacon, the single lock structure is used to coordinate access to the resource, whereas in the present invention as claimed, the ghost lock is not used to coordinate access to the resource but is instead used to store

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the resource owner so that the first process does not have to send an inquiry to determine the resource owner when the first process needs to request access to the resource from the resource owner.

4.   Claims 41-74 are pending in this application. All pending claims are believed to be in a form suitable for allowance. Therefore, the application is believed to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicant respectfully requests early allowance of the application. The Applicant requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned, Jeffrey T. Klayman, if it will assist further examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeffrey. T. Klayman
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 39,250

BROMBERG & SUNSTEIN LLP
125 Summer Street
Boston, MA 02110-1618
(617) 443-9292

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